Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15 STR-04 CEA-01 PA-01 PRS-01 /082 W

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DEPARTMENT PASS TREASURY, FRB AND CEA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECON, EFIN, GW

SUBJECT: FEBRUARY ORDER DATA

REF: BONN 5052

- 1. ACCORDING TO AN ECONOMICS MINISTRY CONTACT, THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED OVERALL INDEX OF THE VOLUME OF NEW INDUSTRIAL ORDERS INCREASED FROM 107 IN JANUARY (REVISED DOWNWARD FROM THE PRELIMINARY 111 FIGURE REPORTED IN REFTEL) TO 108 IN FEBRUARY. IN THIS MONTH-TO-MONTH DEVELOPMENT RISING EXPORT ORDERS OVERCOMPENSATED A DROP IN DOMESTIC ORDERS FOR CAPITAL GOODS.
- 2. A COMPARISON OF THE TWO MONTH PERIOD OF JANUARY-FEBRUARY WITH NOVEMBER-DECEMBER SHOWS A 6.5 PERCENT DECLINE, WITH DOMESTIC AND EXPORT ORDERS EQUALLY WEAK. THE TWO MONTHS APPROACH IS USUALLY APPLIED BY THE MINISTRY, ARGUING THAT ONE MONTH'S DATA IS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TOO SLIM A BASIS TO JUDGE THE UNDERLYING TREND. IN THIS CASE, HOWEVER, A NUMBER OF METHODOLOGICAL CHANGES WERE MADE IN THE INDEX STARTING IN JANUARY 1977 WHICH CORRESPOND WITH SO RADICAL A BREAK IN THE SERIES THAT THEY MAY MAKE THE TWO MONTH COMPARISON MORE PROBLEMATIC.

3. TABLES DETAILING THE FOREGOING FOLLOW (THE REVISED JANUARY AND PRELIMINARY FEBRUARY DATA SHOWN HAVE NOT BEEN PUBLISHED AS YET, BUT WILL APPEAR IN THE NEXT BUNDESBANK'S REIHE 4):

TABLE I

NEW ORDERS VOLUME INDEX SEASONALLY ADJUSTED (1970 EQUALS 100)

1976	TOTAL	DOM	ESTIC	FOREIGN
SEPT	114	103	147	
OCT	113	103	145	
NOV	112	103	140	
DEC	118	107	147	
1977				
JAN	107	100	131	
FEB	108	99	138	

TABLE II

NEW ORDERS VOLUME INDEX -- DOMESTIC INVESTMENT AND CONSUMER GOODS SEASONALLY ADJUSTED (1970 EQUALS 100) LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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1976 INVESTMENT GOODS CONSUMER GOODS

SEPT	104	106	
OCT	104	100	
NOV	105	101	
DEC	111	99	
1977			
JAN	104	101	
FEB	99	101	
STOESSEL			

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